

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet ~~consisting essentially of~~ comprising on a mass percent basis: 0.01% or less of C; 0.5% or less of Si; 0.3% or less of Mn; 0.01% to 0.04% of P; 0.01% or less of S; 8% to 30% of Cr; 1.0% or less of Al; 0.05% to 0.5% of Ti; 0.04% or less of N, $8 \leq \text{Ti}/(\text{C}+\text{N}) \leq 30$ being satisfied; and being free of Nb, with the balance being substantially Fe and incidental impurities, wherein at least 50% of the total P content in the steel sheet is precipitated in the form of the Ti base precipitates, a grain size number of ferrite grain is 6.0 or more, and an average diameter D_p of precipitations, each being [(a long axis length of a Ti base precipitate + a short axis length thereof)/2], of the Ti base precipitates in the steel sheet is in the range of from 0.05 μm to 1.0 μm .

2. (Original) The Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet according to Claim 1, wherein at least 50% of the total Ti content in the steel sheet is precipitated in the form of the Ti base precipitates.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet according to one of Claims 1 to 2, wherein the steel sheet is a hot-rolled steel sheet.

5. (Previously Presented) The Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet according to one of Claims 1 to 2, wherein the steel sheet is a cold-rolled steel sheet.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet comprising the steps of: hot-rolling steel which ~~consists essentially of~~ comprises on a mass percent basis: 0.01% or less of C; 0.5% or less of Si; 0.3% or less of Mn; 0.01% to 0.04% of P; 0.01% or less of S; 8% to 30% of Cr; 1.0% or less of Al; 0.05% to 0.5% of Ti; 0.04% or less of N, $8 \leq \text{Ti}/(\text{C}+\text{N}) \leq 30$ being satisfied; and being free of Nb, with the balance being substantially Fe and

incidental impurities, for forming a hot-rolled steel sheet, and performing recrystallization annealing of the hot-rolled steel sheet at a temperature of (a precipitation nose temperature of Ti base precipitates $\pm 50^{\circ}\text{C}$) so that an average diameter D_p of precipitation diameters, each being [(a long axis length of a Ti base precipitate + a short axis length thereof)/2], of the Ti base precipitates in the steel sheet is in the range of from $0.05\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to $1.0\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and so that a grain size number of ferrite grain is 6.0 or more and such that at least 50% of the total P content in the steel sheet is precipitated in the form of the Ti base precipitates.

7. (Original) The Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet according to Claim 6, wherein at least 50% of the total Ti content in the steel sheet is precipitated in the form of the Ti base precipitates.

8. (Original) The Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet according to Claim 7, wherein at least 50% of the total P content in the steel sheet is precipitated in the form of the Ti base precipitates.

9. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing a Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet, according to Claim 6, further comprising the steps of: cold-rolling the hot-rolled annealed steel sheet; and subsequently performing final annealing of the cold-rolled steel sheet at a temperature less than (the precipitation nose temperature of Ti base precipitates + 100°C) so that the average diameter D_p of precipitation diameters, each being [(a long axis length of a Ti base precipitate + a short axis length thereof)/2], of the Ti base precipitates is in the range of from $0.05\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to $1.0\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and so that the grain size number of ferrite grain is 6.0 or more.

10. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing a Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet, according to Claim 9, wherein the final annealing is performed at a temperature less than (the precipitation nose temperature of Ti base precipitates + 50°C).

11. (Original) The method for manufacturing a Ti-containing ferritic stainless steel sheet, according to Claim 9 or 10, wherein at least 50% of the total Ti content in the steel sheet is precipitated in the form of the Ti base precipitates.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The steel according to Claim 1, further comprising at least one of 0.3% or less of Ni, 0.3% or less of Cu, 0.3% or less of Co, 0.5% or less of Zr, 0.1% or less of Ca, 0.3% or less of Ta, 0.3% or less of W, 0.3% or less of V, 0.3% or less of Sn, 2.0% or less of Mo and 0.003% or less of Mg.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the sheet further comprises at least one of 0.3% or less of Ni, 0.3% or less of Cu, 0.3% or less of Co, 0.5% or less of Zr, 0.1% or less of Ca, 0.3% or less of Ta, 0.3% or less of W, 0.3% or less of V, 0.3% or less of Sn, 2.0% or less of Mo and 0.003% or less of Mg.